

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has not amended any claims or added any new matter. Accordingly, claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Cole, et al. (US 2002/0075906A1). The Applicant traverses the rejection of these claims and respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to claim 1.

1. (Previously Presented) A method for coupling each of one or more peripheral devices to a network of distributed antennas, each peripheral device being suitable for transmission of one or more carrier signals, which each occupy a different radio frequency band, the network of antennas comprising a main transmission path by cable, in which the carrier signals are coupled into and out of the main transmission path from and to the peripheral devices respectively, comprising the steps of

a) dividing the network of antennas into a first network and a second network comprising a first main transmission path part and a second main transmission path part of the main transmission path respectively an intermediate coupling device being coupled to the first and second main transmission path parts; and

at a location between the first and second main transmission path parts:

b) splitting the first main transmission path part into a first group of intermediate transmission paths or transmission of different carrier signals over different intermediate transmission paths of the first group;

c) splitting the second main transmission path part into a second group of intermediate transmission paths for transmission of different carrier signals over different intermediate transmission paths of the second group; and

d) connecting an intermediate path of the second group to an intermediate path of the first group or to a further peripheral device. (emphasis added)

The Applicant respectfully asserts that all of the limitations of claim 1 are not taught or suggested in the Cole reference.

As previously described, the present invention provides an intermediate coupling device that divides an antenna network and provides two transmission paths to and from the antenna network. This reduces the cost of coupling devices and reduces interference from competing frequencies.

The Detailed Action alleges that the network of antennas in claim 1 is comparable to the system ring element 410 of cells 512, 514, 516. The applicant respectfully disagrees. In element a) of claim 1, a network of antennas is divided into a first network and a second network comprising a first main transmission path (Detailed Action: *branch 0Ch1 element 730*) and a second main transmission path (Detailed Action: *branch 0Ch2 element 732 or branch 0Ch3 element 734*). The ring element is not divided and in an optical network, because of the ring, it is not likely there will be a division between antennas in the network.

The branch elements of Cole are compared to the transmission paths of the Applicant's invention, but there is no indication that Cole discloses division of the network of antennas into a first and second network. The Detailed Action compares three transmission paths from the Cole reference, one path (OCh1) and, a second path (OCh2) or an alternate path (OCh3) to the Applicant's two paths – an intermediate path dividing the network of antennas into two networks and the other path, where the main coupling device connects all the network antennas, some through the intermediate device, to the peripheral devices (see element d). The Applicant respectfully submits that the first main transmission path and the second main transmission path of the present invention are not the same as that disclosed in Cole.

The Cole reference lacks distinct first and second networks that are connected by the intermediate coupling device, as in the Applicant's invention. As illustrated in Figure 2 of the present invention, the intermediate coupling device is a separate device from the main coupling device and connects the second antenna network directly to additional peripheral devices (there is no alternate network). Also, the main network is divided (not necessarily in the middle) by the intermediate coupling device.

The intermediate coupling device and the mux/demux in the Cole reference in Figure 7 are indicated by the Detailed Action as being comparable. In Cole, RF-Optical

Converters connect group elements (502, etc., which are compared to the Applicant's peripheral devices) via a single transmission line to the antenna ring. In the Applicant's invention, the intermediate and the main coupling devices provide two paths from the antenna networks. The Applicant respectfully submits that the Cole reference does not disclose all the limitations of claim 1 and respectfully requests that claim 1 be allowed.

Claim 4 is analogous to claim 1 and contains similar limitations. Further claims 2-3 and 5-12 depend respectively from claims 1 and 4 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claims 1 and 4. Therefore, the allowance of claims 1-12 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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